

identifying a subset of items in the domain that correspond to the set of characters;
generating a dynamic grammar based at least in part on the subset of items, said
grammar specifying valid utterances for interpreting the voice query;
prompting the user to submit the voice query, and receiving the voice query from
the user; and
interpreting the voice query using the dynamic grammar.

Please add the following new claims:

39. (New) The method as in Claim 1, wherein the set of characters is a subset of the characters contained in a textual representation of the voice query.

40. (New) A system that operates according to the method of Claim 1.

41. (New) A system that operates according to the method of Claim 15.

42. (New) A system that operates according to the method of Claim 33.

43. (New) A method for facilitating database searches conducted over a telephone, the method comprising:

prompting a user to depress a sequence of telephone keypad keys corresponding to a sequence of characters contained within a query term of a search query, and identifying a resulting sequence of keys depressed by the user;

prompting the user to utter the search query by voice, and receiving a resulting voice utterance from the user; and

interpreting the voice utterance using a voice recognition grammar that corresponds to the sequence of keys depressed by the user, said voice recognition grammar specifying valid utterances.

44. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein the search query consists of said query term.

45. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein the search query contains multiple query terms.

46. (New) The method of Claim 43, further comprising prompting the user to utter said sequence of characters by voice, and using resulting voice utterances of the characters in combination with the sequence of keys depressed by the user to identify the sequence of characters intended by the user.

47. (New) The method of Claim 43, further comprising selecting the voice recognition grammar from a repository of previously-generated voice recognition grammars in which different voice recognition grammars correspond to different sequences of characters.

48. (New) The method of Claim 43, further comprising generating the voice recognition grammar on-the-fly based on input from the user.

49. (New) A system that operates according to the method of Claim 43.

50. (New) A method of capturing a search query specified by a user by telephone, the method comprising:

receiving from the user an indication of a subset of the characters contained in the search query, said indication of the subset of characters being specified at least in part as telephone keypad entries;

receiving from the user a voice utterance that represents the entire search query;
and

interpreting the voice utterance using a voice recognition grammar that corresponds to the indication of the subset of characters, said voice recognition grammar specifying valid utterances.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the indication of the subset of characters further comprises respective voice utterances of the characters in the subset.

52. (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising selecting the voice recognition grammar from a repository of previously-generated voice recognition grammars in which different voice recognition grammars correspond to different sets of characters.

53. (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising generating the voice recognition grammar on-the-fly in response to input from the user.

54. (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising executing a database search using a textual representation of the voice utterance.

55. (New) A system that operates according to the method of Claim 50.